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Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this patent application:

1. (currently amended) A fixture for mounting a component to a rack for supporting a plurality of components, comprising:

a first plate having a surface for receiving the component;

a second plate having a surface for attachment to the rack and cooperating with the first plate to form a combination of mounting plates, and a flange extending from a longitudinal edge of the surface of the second plate;

wherein the first plate is pivotally connected to the second plate so that, in a first position, the first plate is adjacent to and in substantial alignment with the second plate and, in a second position, the first plate is rotated to an orientation which longitudinally projects from the second plate; and

a locking mechanism fixed to the flange of the second plate, wherein the locking mechanism includes a manually retractable tip which is movably coupled with the flange of the second plate, for selectively engaging the component received by the first plate.

2. (original) The fixture of claim 1 wherein the second position of the first plate forms an angle with the second plate.

3. (original) The fixture of claim 1 wherein the first plate is pivotally connected to the second plate by a hinge which operatively connects the mounting plates.

4. (original) The fixture of claim 3 wherein the hinge is positioned along lateral edges of the mounting plates.

5. (original) The fixture of claim 3 wherein the first plate and the second plate have a substantially rectangular shape.

6. (original) The fixture of claim 5 wherein the first plate includes a notch formed in an edge of the first plate which opposes the hinge.

7. (canceled)

8. (canceled)

9. (previously presented) The fixture of claim 1 wherein the tip of the locking mechanism extends through an aperture formed in the flange of the second plate, for

selectively engaging the component received by the first plate.

10. (currently amended) A fixture in combination with a component, for mounting the component to a rack for supporting a plurality of components, comprising:

a first plate associated with the fixture having a surface which receives the component;

a second plate associated with the fixture having a surface for attachment to the rack and cooperating with the first plate to form a combination of mounting plates, and a flange extending from a longitudinal edge of the surface of the second plate;

wherein the first plate is pivotally connected to the second plate by a hinge which operatively connects the mounting plates so that, in a first position, the first plate is adjacent to and in substantial alignment with the second plate and, in a second position, the first plate is rotated to an orientation which longitudinally projects from the second plate; and

a locking mechanism fixed to the flange of the second plate, wherein the locking mechanism includes a manually retractable tip which is movably coupled with the flange of the second plate to selectively engage the component received by the first plate.

11. (original) The fixture of claim 10 wherein the hinge is positioned along lateral edges of the mounting plates.

12. (original) The fixture of claim 10 wherein the second position of the first plate forms an angle with the second plate.

13. (original) The fixture of claim 10 wherein the first plate and the second plate have a substantially rectangular shape.

14. (original) The fixture of claim 13 wherein the first plate includes a notch formed in an edge of the first plate which opposes the hinge.

15. (canceled)

16. (canceled)

17. (previously presented) The fixture of claim 10 wherein the tip of the locking mechanism extends through an aperture formed in the flange of the second plate, to selectively engage the component received by the first plate.

18. (currently amended) A fixture in combination with a component and a rack for supporting a plurality of components, for mounting the component to the rack, wherein the rack is comprised of a plurality of supports which combine to define an interior region located between the plurality of supports, for

receiving the plurality of components, wherein the interior region [[which]] includes first portions for freely accessing the components, and second portions defining an area of limited access which is at least partially blocked by the supports of the rack, and wherein the fixture comprises:

a first plate associated with the fixture having a surface which receives the component; and

a second plate associated with the fixture having a surface attached to the rack and cooperating with the first plate to form a combination of mounting plates;

wherein the first plate is pivotally connected to the second plate by a hinge which operatively connects the mounting plates so that, in a first position, the first plate is located within the second portions of the interior region defined by the plurality of supports, adjacent to and in substantial alignment with the second plate and, in a second position, the first plate is rotated to an orientation which longitudinally projects from the second plate and which is located within the first portions of the interior region defined by the plurality of supports.

19. (original) The fixture of claim 18 wherein the hinge is positioned along lateral edges of the mounting plates.

20. (original) The fixture of claim 18 wherein the second position of the first plate forms an angle with the second plate.

21. (original) The fixture of claim 18 wherein the first plate and the second plate have a substantially rectangular shape.

22. (original) The fixture of claim 21 wherein the first plate includes a notch formed in an edge of the first plate which opposes the hinge.

23. (original) The fixture of claim 18 wherein the second plate further includes a flange extending from a longitudinal edge of the surface of the second plate.

24. (previously presented) The fixture of claim 23 which further includes a locking mechanism fixed to the flange of the second plate.

25. (previously presented) The fixture of claim 24 wherein the locking mechanism includes a tip which is movably coupled with the flange of the second plate, to selectively engage the component received by the first plate.

26. (previously presented) The fixture of claim 25 which further includes a bracket connected to the component, wherein the bracket has an aperture for receiving the tip of the locking mechanism.

27. (currently amended) The fixture of claim 18 wherein the second plate further includes at least one aperture which receives hardware connecting the second plate to the rack so that the second plate is located within the second portions of the interior region defined by the plurality of supports.

28. (currently amended) The fixture of claim 18 wherein the component is supported by the first plate and the second plate within the second portions of the interior region defined by the plurality of supports when the first plate is in the first position.

29. (previously presented) The fixture of claim 18 wherein the first plate is connected to a side of the component.

30. (currently amended) The fixture of claim 1 which further includes a bracket for association with the component received by the first plate and spaced ~~separated~~ from the fixture, for selective engagement by the tip of the locking mechanism.

31. (currently amended) The fixture of claim 10 wherein the component includes a surface spaced ~~separate~~ from the fixture for selective engagement by the tip of the locking mechanism.

32. (previously presented) The fixture of claim 31 wherein the surface is a bracket associated with the component.

33. (previously presented) The fixture of claim 25 wherein the tip of the locking mechanism extends through an aperture formed in the flange of the second plate.